

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Joe E. Torrence of
Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Joe E. Torrence; Mr. Torrence had a great impact upon Nashville as a teacher and coach, in higher education, financial administration in both business and local government, and in elected office over more than six decades; and

WHEREAS, born April 22, 1912, in Giles County, the son of the late John Taylor and Frances Giddens Torrence, Joe Torrence graduated from Central High School in Nashville and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Murray State University and a Master's Degree in Public Education Administration from Peabody College; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Torrence was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; from 1926-1943, he served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal at Cumberland, Bellevue and Antioch High Schools, and, from 1933-36, he worked summers conducting river surveying with the Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, Joe Torrence went to Oak Ridge to work on the Manhattan Project with the Corps of Engineers, continuing there until 1947 when he became Office Manager and

Assistant Credit Manager for Cain-Sloan and Company; he taught Office Management and Personnel Administration at the University of Tennessee, Nashville Extension from 1948-50; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Torrence served as instructor of History, Economics, Government and Sociology at Watkins Institute from 1950-54; from 1954-58, he served as Deputy Director of Finance and Chief Accountant for the City of Nashville, rising to Director of Finance in 1958; and

WHEREAS, with the move to consolidate the governments of the City of Nashville and Davidson County, a Metropolitan Government Charter Commission was formed, with Joe Torrence as a member; when the Commission produced the working constitution of the new Metropolitan Government in 1963, Mr. Torrence became the first Finance Director of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, serving until 1977; and

WHEREAS, just as was the City Government of Nashville, the new Metropolitan Government was fortunate to have in Mr. Torrence a no-nonsense, hands-on manager who was not addicted to life in the public limelight; the best service to local taxpayers was his priority both in his appointive and elective positions; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stint as a private consultant, Joe Torrence served as Vice President of Finance for Meharry Medical College from 1978-82; in 1982, he successfully ran for the office of Criminal Court Clerk of Davidson County, serving with acumen and effectiveness in that office until his retirement in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Torrence was an active and devout member of the First Presbyterian Church, which he served faithfully for many years as Deacon, Elder and Treasurer; he was also a 32nd Degree Mason and Shriner; and

WHEREAS, widely respected by his peers for his professional excellence and organizational abilities, Joe Torrence served on numerous boards of directors of civic and charitable organizations; he served as Director, Vice President and President of the Nashville Retail Credit Association; member of the Metropolitan Government Charter Commission; Chairman of the Board of Hospital Commissioners of Nashville General Hospital; board member

of the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Directors; member of the Board of Directors and President of the Municipal Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada; Director of the Tennessee Municipal League; member of the State Court Clerks Association and its legislative committee; and member of the Board of Trustees for the Murray State University Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Torrence received many honors and awards including Outstanding Director of Finance from Local Government awarded by the National Association of County Treasurers and Finance Directors; Life Membership in the Municipal Finance Officers of the United States and Canada; Distinguished Alumnus of Murray State University Alumni Association for Service in Government; and the Distinguished American Award by the National Football Association, Nashville Chapter; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, he held honorary positions with Senior Citizens, Heart Fund, and United Way, serving as Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the United Way Fund Drive; and

WHEREAS, Joe Torrence was also deeply devoted to his family, always endeavoring to remain true to family values of the highest order; he enjoyed the loving companionship of Roberta Rochelle Torrence and was the proud parent of Camille Fohl, Joseph H. Torrence, Linda Muri, William G. Torrence and David C. Torrence; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Torrence will be sorely missed by his eleven grandchildren: Rebecca Dean, Jeanie Dale, Katherine Hartle, Stephanie Caldwell, Emily Paisley, Jennifer Mulvaney, William Torrence, Robert King, Andy King, Joshua Torrence and Joseph Torrence; as well as his twelve great grandchildren: Maxwell, Zachary, Devon and Jessica Dale; Houston Hartle; Skylar and Georgia King; Winfield and Robert Dean; and Kyle, Erin and Haley Torrence; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, Joe Torrence leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Joe E. Torrence, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Torrence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.